

and faithful. Let parents co-operate with them and sustain them, and ere long, not only will opposition cease, but the thousands and tens of thousands of boys and girls who fill the public schools of the State, *and who cannot be educated by any other agency*, will fully realize the great blessings which the school system of this State is so well calculated to bestow.

ROBT. F. THOMPSON,
President.

FREDERICK COUNTY.

Office of School Commissioners,
Frederick City,
December 11, 1866.

REV. L. VAN BOKKELEN, LL. D.,
Superintendent of Public Instruction,

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit my reports on "the condition of the public schools of Frederick County for the school year ending June 30, 1866," and on "the condition of the Colleges, incorporated Academies, High Schools, and Private Schools and Academies." We have had 7,888 different pupils in the public schools. The number of school districts is 108, and schools have been open for ten months in an average of 94 $\frac{1}{4}$. The cost of educating each pupil has been \$4.43 $\frac{1}{4}$, if the aggregate only of salaries and incidentals be considered, or \$4.83 $\frac{1}{4}$ if the entire expenditure of the Board be taken into the computation.

The labor imposed by the law upon the School Commissioners has been of a nature to demand much time and attention. It was necessary for them to superintend repairs, to a greater or less extent in all the school houses of their districts, to secure teachers from those who had obtained certificates of competency from the proper authorities, to give advice in the general management of the schools, and to lend every aid to make the law as efficient as possible. This labor has been performed with such hearty good-will by my colleagues, that it is a pleasure to make an acknowledgement of thankfulness for it in the Annual Report. No person in the position of President of a County Board could accomplish very much unless his hands were stayed by his brother Commissioners.

During the *first* school year I examined 124 applicants for the position of teacher, and issued 5 first grade, and 95 second grade certificates. The compensation that we are able to offer teachers, is not sufficiently large to attract many applicants. These are mostly, either attracted by an earnest, irrepressible longing to the business of education as one which